



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov
DW JAF-06

PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. BOX 2168
MENLO PARK CA 94026

COPY MAILED

JUL 11 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| In re Application of | : | |
| Sydney Brenner | : | DECISION ON PETITION TO |
| Application No. 09/366,081 | : | WITHDRAW HOLDING OF |
| Filed: 2 August, 1999 | : | ABANDONMENT |
| Atty Docket No. 802-04RE | : | |
| (55525-8029.US07) | : | |

This is a decision on the petition filed on 18 May, 2006, to withdraw the holding of abandonment in the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The application was held abandoned for failure to timely respond to the non-final Office action mailed on 3 November, 2005, which set a three (3) month shortened statutory period for reply. No extensions of the time for reply in accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. The filing of the present petition precedes the mailing of Notice of Abandonment.

Petitioners assert that the Office action mailed on 3 November, 2005, was never received.

In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing of the non-final Office action, there is a strong presumption that the non-final Office action was properly mailed to practitioner at the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the non-final Office action was not in fact received. The showing required to establish the failure to receive an Office communication must include a statement from the practitioner stating that the Office communication was not received by the practitioner and attesting to the fact that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of the docket record where the non-received

Office action would have been entered had it been received and docketed must be attached to and referenced in practitioner's statement. See "Withdrawing the Holding of Abandonment When Office Actions Are Not Received" 1156 Official Gazette 53 (November 16, 1993) and M.P.E.P. § 711.03(c). The showing outlined above may not be sufficient if there are circumstances that point to a conclusion that the final Office action may have been lost after receipt rather than a conclusion that the final Office action was lost in the mail.

A review of the record indicates that the Office action was properly mailed to the petitioners at the correspondence address of record at the time of mailing. Thus, there was no irregularity in mailing the Office action on the part of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In support of the petition, the petitioners have submitted a statement by the practitioner that a search of the file jacket and docket records indicates that the Office action was not received. A copy of petitioner's docket records and mail log is included with the petition and referenced therein.

The petitioner has made a sufficient showing of nonreceipt of the Office action. Accordingly, the holding of abandonment is withdrawn.

The petition is GRANTED.

The application file is being referred to Technology Center 1600 technical support staff for remailing of the Office action mailed 3 November, 2005. The period for reply will be reset from the mailing date thereof.

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571)272-3231.



Douglas I. Wood
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions